

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 5 October 1948

SUBJECT Activities of the Opposition in Lebanon

CONFIDENTIAL NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Deputy Camille Shamun has been contacting various opposition leaders and groups in an effort to form a front to oppose President Bisharah Khuri and Prime Minister Sulh. Among those contacted were Abd-al-Hamid Karanah and other members of his National Liberation bloc; Kamal Jumblatt, Druze deputy and leader; leaders of the Phalange, the National Bloc, the Hizb al-Qawmi al-Suri and al-Nida al-Qawmi Party; Maronite deputies from Mt. Lebanon, including Khalil Abu-Jawdah, Wadi Na'im, Dr. Yusuf Hitti, Amin Makhlaf, George Zuqayn, Shahid Khuri and the late Farid Khazin; Sami Sulh, the Sunni deputy from Beirut; Henri Pharaon, the Catholic deputy from the Biqa'; and Bahij Taqi-al-Din, the Druze deputy from Mt. Lebanon. Shamun has thus far only been able to reach a final agreement with Emil Edde and the National Bloc, because of friction between the various religious communities. Shamun is not going to announce the formation of this front until he gains more support, and until the Palestine situation improves, so that the Christians cannot be accused of hindering the war effort. 25X1A
25X1X Comment. In a second report, the same source states that Shamun has instructed his supporters and members of the National Bloc to prepare for a revolt against the administration. During the first week in September, Emile Khazin, a member of the internal affairs committee of the National Bloc, asked Fawzi Abu-Taqqah, a leading member of the National Bloc, to go to villages where members of the Abu-Taqqah family are numerous, such as Mariya, Marajil, Mairuba, Amhiz, Junie, Aintura, Kakhale, Ba'abda and Jubayl, to see that the villagers were armed and ready for revolt. Abu-Taqqah is said to be dubious about the advisability of taking this action and has not as yet followed this order.
 2. The National Bloc, which for a long time has been trying to gain support of the British, unified its aims with those of Camille Shamun following the return of Edde from France, where Edde had contacted the British. Shamun facilitated this union by accepting completely Edde's stipulations on internal policy.

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-2-

25X1A

3. Although numerous meetings are being held, no agreement has yet been reached between Shammun and the Phalangists (who are regarded as the cornerstone of the opposition), because the Phalangists feel that Shammun's opposition to the government is British inspired, and that his first loyalty is to the British and not to the opposition. The Phalangists have no objection to an agreement with Shammun, however, provided that the Phalange assumes the leadership of the opposition and directs it in accordance with Phalange principles. This may not be acceptable to other opposition leaders, who want not only reform, but seats in the Chamber of Deputies and positions in the Ministries, source states.
4. Abd-al-Hamid Karamah has refused to join with Shammun, (under Syrian pressure, according to source) unless the National Bloc and the Phalange agree to his principles. However, the National Bloc absolutely refuses to accept any reservations from Karamah for his participation in a united opposition, and extremist National Bloc members refuse to cooperate with Karamah in any way.
5. Al-Nida al-Qawmi Party, which is considered pro-British, agrees with Shammun's policy without reservations (which, source states, is because of British direction), but is cautious about joining with the National Bloc and the Phalange, because of their complete differences of outlook.
6. Henri Pharaon, who met several times to discuss the opposition with Camille Shammun, Habib Abu-Shahlah, Greek Orthodox deputy from Beirut, and Pierre Jumayl, leader of the Phalange, has announced that, while he still opposes government corruption and supports revision of the constitution, his opposition is independent of party ties. Source states that Pharaon adopted this attitude after friends had mediated between Pharaon and President Khuri, who promised to change the election law, which was Pharaon's price for a truce with the government.
7. The Sunnite deputies, Sulayman Ali and Nassuh Fadil of North Lebanon, have agreed with the National Bloc and the Phalange concerning the opposition, in spite of their close contacts with Karamah, as they are not fanatical in their Moslem beliefs. In addition, Fadil has been a close friend of Edde for more than fifteen years.
8. Source states, without giving the basis for his conclusions, that it may be possible for the deputies Khalil Abu-Jawdah, who is opposed to Riyad Sulh, Kamal Jumblatt, and Dr. Hitti to agree with Shammun, the Phalange, and the National Bloc without reservations.

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